Technology Report – Security Issues

Security issues and online safety for our students is becoming a priority concern for all educators. It is important that we not only educate our students on the security issues pertaining to online safety, but also that we make all administrators and educators in our district aware of the consequences of the dangers in the cyber world. There is enormous educational value in utilizing technology and Internet in our classrooms so that our students are successful, but we need to have everyone be aware of the potential dangers that could harm our students. According to Linda Joseph, *MultiMedia and Internet @Schools*, “The Internet has changed the way students learn and communicate. With the click of a mouse, they (students) can instant message one another, work together on projects, download all kinds of multimedia files, and post to blogs, Web sites, and RSS feeds.” Our district does have filters that provide some security for student access to harmful sites, but this does not always keep our students from some of the real dangers online that might target our students and catch them in situations that they are not prepared to handle.

One of our top technology priority issues is to keep students safe in cyberspace. We can implement a safe Internet Safety Curriculum Program in three ways. The first method is utilize an Internet safety program to make sure that our administrators, teachers, and students understand what is expected when working online and with technology. They need to have training available to them so that they know what the potential dangers are and how to deal properly with these issues. We need to have curriculum in place that will educate all involved about these dangers and make sure that they are taught these safety and security methods prior to Internet usage. The second way is to be sure that there is a continued awareness through periodic updates and proper supervision of these safety programs. If we make these procedures an ongoing effort, we will continue to make safety and security on the Internet a top priority for our educators and students. The third way that we can implement is to constantly search for updated methods to filter and keep the Web safe for our educators and students. With the continued dangers of online predators, we need to stay current on methods to secure our networks and keep them safe and protected.

It is important that we implement this Internet Safety Curriculum Program in our district and make this available to parents and the community. There is safety and security in educating all involved. This will be a benefit to our students and our educators. They will be aware of the dangers on the Web and in cyberspace. This will give a renewed level of information about the dangers and they will have the tools and knowledge that it takes to keep them out of harm’s way when dealing with strangers and online predators on the Web. This will provide an ongoing education process and ongoing awareness in preventing dangers on the Web. There are many resources available to us and we need to make sure that we offer this to all individuals that are involved with educating our students. Our top priority is keeping our students safe while they are becoming successful in our schools. We can implement this program immediately so that our students can grow and learn in a secure and safe educational environment.

References

Adelman, Hallee. (Mar 2004). Teaching Online Safety. *Voice From the Middle.* 11,3, 17 – 21.

Hitchcock, J. A. (May/June 2007). Cyberbullies, Online Predators, and What to Do About Them. *MultiMedia & Internet@Schools*. 14,3, 13 – 15.

Joseph, Linda. (Jan/Feb 2007). Keeping Safe in Cyberspace. *MultiMedia & Internet@ Schools.* 14,1, 17 - 20.

Kruger, Robert. (July/August 2003). Discussing Cyber Ethics with Students Is Critical. *The Social Studies*. 188 – 189.